

REFLECTIONS upon the foregoing History, taken from Robertson's Scripture Characters.

1. **T**HAT many of God's dearest children may be the greatest sufferers. Neither is outward prosperity any mark of the Lord's favour, nor are the severest trials any token of his displeasure. We have beheld Joseph, a pious, amiable youth, of irreproachable manners, hated by his brethren, through their cruelty banished from his father's house, sold as a slave in a foreign land, dismissed from his master's service with disgrace, loaded with chains as a vile malefactor, and restored to his liberty, till thirteen years had elapsed, from the time that he left his native country.

In such a situation, who would not have concluded, "The Lord hath forsaken or forgotten me?" Unbelief would have suggested to us, "I have cleansed my heart in vain." But it has appeared

that Joseph was the object of God's constant and peculiar care; that he received from him singular proofs of his kindness; and that, by these very afflictive dispensations, he was prepared for future greatness, and even his promised exaltation brought about. Shall we say, that this was an uncommon case? Is it not, rather, the usual method of the divine providence? We remember it is written, "That we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God," and that "our affliction," (heavy and long as it may seem) "is light and but for a moment, and worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." We perceive

2. That the judgments of God, which are all ordered in wisdom, and are, like Himself, "holy, just, and good," are yet very mysterious to us. We see but very little of the designs of his government,